

Application No. 10/027,814  
Amendment dated January 25, 2005  
Reply to Final Office Action of November 26, 2004

### **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

The above identified Final Office Action has been received, the references carefully considered, and the Examiner's comments carefully weighed. Applicant has thoroughly reviewed the outstanding Final Office Action including the Examiner's remarks and the references cited therein. Applicant has amended claims 2-4, 6, 10, 13-15 and 17 to be dependent on claim 16, which has been amended and should be allowable, and has cancelled claims 1 and 12. The amendments made to these claims are based on the application and drawings as originally filed. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added. In this regard, it is contended that all bases of rejection set forth in the Final Office Action have been traversed and overcome. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

### **Objection to Claim 16**

According to the Final Office Action, claim 16 has been objected to because there is insufficient antecedent basis for the limitation "the region of reduced height" contained therein. Applicant has amended claim 16 to include proper antecedent basis for the "the region of reduced height" element recited therein. Accordingly, claim 16 should be in condition for allowance.

### **Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103**

According to the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 4-6, 10, 12-15 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Onozaki (JP 11-280548) ("Onozaki") in view of Adams (USPN 2,437,013) ("Adams"); claims 1, 2, 4-6, 10, 12-15 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moller (USPN 4,395,982) ("Moller") in view of Adams; claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Onozaki in view of Adams as applied to claims 1, 2, 4-6, 10, 12-15 and 17, and further in view of Hofbauer et al. (USPN 4,296,716) ("Hofbauer"); claims 7-9 and 18-

Application No. 10/027,814  
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21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Onozaki in view of Adams as applied to claims 1, 2, 4-6, 10, 12-15 and 17, and further in view of Takubo (USPN 4,770,276) ("Takubo"); claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moller in view of Adams as applied to claims 1, 2, 4-6, 10, 12-15 and 17, and further in view of in view of Hofbauer; and claims 7-9, and 18-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moller in view of Adams as applied to claims 1, 2, 4-6, 10, 12-15 and 17, and further in view of Takubo. Applicant respectfully traverses each of the aforesaid grounds for rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103, for the reasons set forth below.

Applicant has amended claim 16 (which was objected to but not rejected in the Final Office Action) and believes claim 16 is now in condition for allowance. As discussed above, Applicant has amended claims 2-4, 6, 10, 13-15 and 17 to be dependent on claim 16, and has cancelled claims 1 and 12. Since claim 16 is allowable, for the reasons discussed above, all of the currently pending claims from claim 16 should also be allowable.

#### **Entry of Amendment After Final**

It is respectfully submitted that the present amendment should be entered in accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. Section 1.116 on the grounds that: (1) The claims as now presented are in better form for appeal purposes, if necessary; (2) no new issues have been raised; (3) and, moreover, the present amendment is believed to place the application in condition for allowance.

#### **Conclusion**

It is respectfully submitted that Applicant has responded in a fully satisfactory manner to all matters at issue in this Application, and that this Application is now in condition for allowance. In this regard, Applicant has made every effort to comply with the requirements set forth in the Final Office

Application No. 10/027,814  
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Action as well as the statutory requirements. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner enter this Amendment, allow the claims, and pass the Application to issue.

Applicant respectfully submit that claims 2-11 and 13-21 are in a condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 433-7570. Applicant believes there are no fees due for this document; however, if any fees are due the Patent Office is hereby authorized to charge or refund any fee deficiency or excess to Deposit Account No. 04-1061 in the name of Dickinson Wright PLLC.

Respectfully submitted,

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